

From: [Freedhoff, Michal \(EPW\)](#)
To: [Aarons, Kyle](#)
Cc: [Knapp, Kristien](#); [Yaeger, Ryan](#); [Lyons, Troy](#); [Palich, Christian](#); [Horner, Elizabeth \(EPW\)](#); [Donaldson, Teri \(EPW\)](#); [Leggett, Matt \(EPW\)](#); [Memmott, Justin \(EPW\)](#); [Choksi, Rachit \(EPW\)](#)
Subject: RE: EPA Response to August 24 Grant Approval Letter
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:51:01 PM

Kyle

Just checking in on an ETA for responses to those last remaining questions?

Thanks

Michal

Michal Ilana Freedhoff, Ph.D.

Director of Oversight

Committee on Environment and Public Works Democratic Staff

From: Aarons, Kyle [mailto:Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 5:33 PM

To: Freedhoff, Michal (EPW) <Michal_Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov>

Cc: Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>; Yaeger, Ryan <Yaeger.Ryan@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Horner, Elizabeth (EPW) <Elizabeth_Horner@epw.senate.gov>; Donaldson, Teri (EPW) <Teri_Donaldson@epw.senate.gov>; Leggett, Matt (EPW) <Matt_Leggett@epw.senate.gov>; Memmott, Justin (EPW) <Justin_Memmott@epw.senate.gov>; Choksi, Rachit (EPW) <Rachit_Choksi@epw.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: EPA Response to August 24 Grant Approval Letter

Hi Michal – Regarding competitive grants:

EPA posts synopses of its competitive grant opportunities on <https://www.grants.gov>. EPA opportunities can be found by clicking the “search grants” tab and then by selecting EPA under the “agency” section.

The attached list of what EPA generally considers to be discretionary grant programs as of May 2017 identifies programs that may make competitive awards under [EPA’s Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements](#).

EPA is in the process of updating this list. Programs such as Brownfields and the National Clean Diesel funding assistance program are required to compete awards by statute. Certain programs on this list are exempt from competition under EPA’s Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements including the National Estuary Program (66.456), the Senior Environmental Employment Program (66.508), and the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (66.926). In addition, under the policy certain awards may qualify for an exception from competition under limited circumstances such as when it can be demonstrated that there is an urgent situation and for small awards of \$25,000 or less. If you have questions about a particular program please let us know.

We are still finalizing our responses to your other questions about grants and will have to get back to you. I’ll be responding to your workforce email separately.

Thanks,

Kyle

Kyle Aarons

Congressional Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-7351

From: Freedhoff, Michal (EPW) [mailto:Michal_Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 10:26 AM

To: Aarons, Kyle <Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov>

Cc: Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>; Yaeger, Ryan <Yaeger.Ryan@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Horner, Elizabeth (EPW) <Elizabeth_Horner@epw.senate.gov>; Donaldson, Teri (EPW) <Teri_Donaldson@epw.senate.gov>; Leggett, Matt (EPW) <Matt_Leggett@epw.senate.gov>; Memmott, Justin (EPW) <Justin_Memmott@epw.senate.gov>; Choksi, Rachit (EPW) <Rachit_Choksi@epw.senate.gov>; Freedhoff, Michal (EPW) <Michal_Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: EPA Response to August 24 Grant Approval Letter

Hi all

Thanks for this response. We think there are some portions missing and want to discuss those omissions. What follows below is a list of the Carper questions and what we would like as a follow-up response.

1. Please provide a list of all EPA grant programs that will be subject to this new solicitation process.

EPA's answer is that the process only applied to competitive grants which is not the majority of EPA grant funding. Could you provide us with a list of EPA's competitive grant programs (or if this exists on your website tell us where)?

2. For each such grant program, please describe the deviations from the past process used to solicit grant applications.

EPA says the process is consistent with or similar to that of past administrations, but consistent is not the same as identical. Could you either a) confirm the process is identical or b) describe the deviations (including whether roles typically served by career staff are now being served by political appointees, or any other deviations)?

3. For each such grant program, please indicate whether political appointees will also be signing off on the recipient of each grant after award recommendations are made by EPA career staff.

EPA says that "This process is similar in nature to long standing agency practice for grant awards, under which political appointees heading EPA program and regional offices **consult** with career staff as **they** approve or disapprove grants." Is that a "yes" to the question Senator Carper asked? It is hard to tell from the EPA response whether **they** means career or political staff, and hard to tell whether **consult** means career staff or political staff have final say.

4. For your tenure at EPA to date, and quarterly thereafter, please provide a list of grants that were recommended for award by EPA career staff that were subsequently declined, and a list of grants that were recommended for decline by EPA career staff that were subsequently awarded. For each such grant, please provide the name and location of the applicant, the grant program for which the application was submitted, and the reason for over-ruling EPA career staff's recommendations.

Just making sure that a) there were no grants that career staff recommended for denial that were awarded anyway, and b) that we will get the requested list quarterly (along with location of grantee and reasons for over-ruling career staff which were not included in the list of denials to date).

Thanks

Michal

Michal Ilana Freedhoff, Ph.D.
Director of Oversight

Committee on Environment and Public Works Democratic Staff

From: Aarons, Kyle [<mailto:Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 5:14 PM

To: Freedhoff, Michal (EPW) <Michal_Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov>

Cc: Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>; Yaeger, Ryan <Yaeger.Ryan@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Horner, Elizabeth (EPW) <Elizabeth_Horner@epw.senate.gov>; Donaldson, Teri (EPW) <Teri_Donaldson@epw.senate.gov>; Leggett, Matt (EPW) <Matt_Leggett@epw.senate.gov>; Memmott, Justin (EPW) <Justin_Memmott@epw.senate.gov>

Subject: EPA Response to August 24 Grant Approval Letter

Hi Michal – Attached is the EPA's response to the August 24, 2017, letter from Ranking Member Carper regarding the agency's grant approval process. We are working on a separate response to the February 6, 2018, letter on this topic.

Thanks,

Kyle

Kyle Aarons

Congressional Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-7351